

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 008917

ADP376

PAGE 01      SEOUL 08917   01 OF 02   110905Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01   ADS-00   ONY-00   SSO-00   SVC-00   /013 W  
-----109769   110914Z /12-R

O 110840Z JUL 80  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7688  
INFO SA CINCUNC KS  
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS  
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 08917

E.O. 12065: GDS 07/11/86 (GLEYSTEN, W. H.) DR-M  
TAGS: PEPP MILI PINT SHUM KS US  
SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE

REF: STATE 181043

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IN GENERAL THE PROPOSED ANSWERS TO THE WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE ARE APPROPRIATELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND COMPLETE. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED CHANGES.

3. ANSWER 2 SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"FORMAL LEGITIMACY HAS BEEN RETAINED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN SEOUL. PRESIDENT CHOI KYU-HAH HAS CONTINUED IN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE, AND A CIVILIAN CABINET REMAINS. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF EXTRAORDINARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE MID-MAY, INCLUDING PREVENTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM MEETING OR FUNCTIONING AND THE ESTABLISHING OF MILITARY-CIVIL "SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES" WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY ASSUMING

PAGE 02      SEOUL 08917   01 OF 02   110905Z

AUTHORITY NORMALLY RESERVED TO THE CABINET, LEGISLATURE, AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS WHO WIELD VERY GREAT AUTHORITY OVER ALL ASPECTS OF KOREAN GOVERNMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME DO SO FORMALLY THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF EXTENDED MARTIAL LAW, ALTHOUGH THEIR ACTIONS HAVE A DEPTH AND PATTERN WHICH GOES MORE DEEPLY INTO THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM THAN WOULD APPEAR TO BE WARRANTED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 90034608		IS, FPC/CDR TRB	Date 9/13/93	(F15.600)
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<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations		
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FOIA Exemptions		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as	<input type="checkbox"/> S or	<input type="checkbox"/> C OADR
PA Exemptions		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to	<input type="checkbox"/> S or	<input type="checkbox"/> C OADR

78

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RESTORING SECURITY AND ORDER."

REMAINDER OF ANSWER 2 SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

4. ANSWER 3 SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ENOUGH SIGNIFICANT RELEASES SINCE THE EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW IN MID-MAY TO INDICATE A MAJOR EFFORT AT RECONCILIATION OR LENIENCY. IN THE WAKE OF THE LARGE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEOUL AND THE SUBSEQUENT NEAR-INSURRECTION IN THE SOUTHERN CITY OF KWANGJU IN MAY, LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS WERE DETAINED BY MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES FOR INVESTIGATION. REPORTEDLY, OVER 1,000 HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGES, BUT THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO MORE THAN THE RESULT OF A SCREENING AND INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS RATHER THAN RELEASES OF THOSE AGAINST WHOM THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT HAD A CASE.

A SMALL NUMBER OF POLITICIANS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER KIM JONG-PIL, AND SEVERAL OTHER FORMERLY PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS WERE RELEASED AT THE BEGINNING OF JULY AFTER HAVING REPORTEDLY AGREED TO TURN MOST OF THEIR WEALTH OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER

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PAGE 03      SEOUL 08917 01 OF 02 110905Z

POLITICAL OR POLITICAL PARTY PARTICIPATION. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION, ALTHOUGH NO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WERE EVER HELD AND THEIR REMOVAL FROM THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED IN RETURN FOR THEIR FREEDOM. A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE DETAINED, INCLUDING SOME NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN, HAVE ALSO BEEN RELEASED."

REMAINDER OF ANSWER 3 SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

5. ANSWER 5 SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"AFTER NEARLY TWO DECADES OF SPECTACULAR ECONOMIC GROWTH DURING WHICH REAL INCREASES IN GNP AVERAGED ABOUT 9.5 PERCENT ANNUALLY, KOREAN ECONOMIC GROWTH SLOWED TO 7.1 PERCENT IN 1979. PART OF THE SLOWDOWN WAS SELF-INDUCED AS THE GOVERNMENT IN EARLY 1979 ADOPTED A STABILIZATION PROGRAM TO COMBAT GROWING INFLATIONARY PRESSURES, BUT THE DOWNTURN WAS MUCH SHARPER THAN EXPECTED DUE TO LAST YEAR'S PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASE AND THE SLOWDOWN IN THE WORLD ECONOMY. FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, GNP HAS DECLINED ABOUT 2 PERCENT AND OVERALL GROWTH FOR THE YEAR WILL BE MINIMAL. ALTHOUGH KOREAN ECONOMIC PLANNERS EXPECT THE INFLATION (#)

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ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT."

PARAGRAPH BEGINNING "WHILE KOREA EXPERIENCED..." REMAINS  
UNCHANGED.

PAGE 04 SEDUL 08917 01 OF 02 110905Z

NOTE BY OC/T: SEDUL 8917/1. (#)OMISSION PARA 5 CORRECTION  
TO FOLLOW.

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ADP378  
[REDACTED]PAGE 01 SEUL 08917 02 OF 02 110902Z  
ACTION EA-12INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSD-00 /013 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7689  
INFO SA CINCUNC KS  
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS  
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 SEUL 08917

"ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY, THESE ECONOMIC ILLS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN EXACERBATED SOMEWHAT BY RECENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. EXPORT GROWTH WAS NEGATIVE IN REAL TERMS LAST YEAR AND IS WELL BELOW ITS RECENT HISTORICAL TREND THIS YEAR. INVESTMENTS HAVE FALLEN SHARPLY, AND BOTH SECTORS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF POLITICAL DISTURBANCES. BEYOND THAT, WE ASSUME THAT DISRUPTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE ECONOMY BECAUSE OF DECREASED EFFICIENCY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS CAUSED BY HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES AND CIVIL DISORDERS. LATEST INDICATORS POINT TO CONTINUING SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMY, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DEFINITE SIGNS INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ARE ABATING. IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE ECONOMY REGAINS ITS PREVIOUS MOMENTUM; TO A LARGE EXTENT THESE WILL DEPEND ON THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SITUATION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF AN OPEN TRADING SYSTEM AS WELL AS A STABILIZATION OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESS. BARRING WIDESPREAD CIVIL DISORDER, LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REMAIN GOOD."

6. WITH REGARD TO ANSWER 9, COMUSKOREA OFFERS A CHANGE TO MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE RESERVE ROLES OF THE MARINE AND 20TH DIVISION UNITS. THE LAST SENTENCE SHOULD BE REPLACED BY THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE: THE MARINE ELEMENTS

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PAGE 02 SEUL 08917 02 OF 02 110902Z

ARE PART OF THE RESERVE FORCES OF THE COMBINED COMMAND, AND THE 20TH DIVISION SERVES AS A RESERVE OF A FORWARD ARMY." GLEYSTEN

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PAGE NO. 4  
PAGE NO. 5